

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition, comprising an antimicrobial effective amount of a mixture of two, three or more straight-chain 1,2-alkanediols, the chain lengths of which (i) are different and (ii) in each case are in the range of 5 to 10 C atoms.
2. (previously presented) The antimicrobial composition according to Claim 1, wherein the proportions of the said diols in the mixture are set such that their antimicrobial action is synergistically intensified.
3. (previously presented) The antimicrobial composition according to Claim 1, wherein the mixture contains 1,2-hexanediol and one, two or three further straight-chain 1,2-alkanediols, the chain length of which in each case is in the range of 5 to 10 C atoms.
4. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition comprising an antimicrobial effective amount of a mixture of
 - (a) 1,2-hexanediol and 1,2-octanediol,
 - (b) 1,2-hexanediol and 1,2-decanediol,

(c) 1,2-pentanediol, 1,2-hexanediol and 1,2-octanediol,

(d) 1,2-hexanediol, 1,2-octanediol and 1,2-decanediol
or

(e) 1,2-pentanediol, 1,2-hexanediol and 1,2-decanediol
as antimicrobial active compound, the proportions of the
said diols in the mixture being set such that their
antimicrobial action is synergistically intensified.

5. (previously presented) The antimicrobial composition
according to Claim 1, wherein the proportion of each
individual diol is in the range of 1 to 99% (m/m),
preferably in the range of 20 to 80% (m/m), based on the
total mass of the mixture of the diols.

6. (previously presented) A method for the cosmetic and/or
therapeutic treatment of

- (a) microorganisms causing body odour,
- (b) microorganisms causing acne and/or
- (c) microorganisms causing mycoses,

said method comprising the topical application of an
antimicrobially effective amount of a mixture of two, three
or more straight-chain 1,2-alkanediols, the chain lengths
of which (i) are different and (ii) in each case are in the
range of 5 to 10 C atoms,

wherein the proportions of the said diols in the
mixture are set such that their antimicrobial action is
synergistically intensified.

7. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition comprising an antimicrobial effective amount of a mixture of two, three or more straight-chain 1,2-alkanediols, the chain lengths of which (i) are different and (ii) in each case are in the range of 5 to 10 C atoms, wherein the proportions of the said diols in the mixture are set such that their antimicrobial action is synergistically intensified,
- (a) for the cosmetic treatment of microorganisms causing body odour,
 - (b) for the cosmetic treatment of microorganisms causing acne,
 - (c) for the cosmetic treatment of microorganisms causing mycoses,
 - (d) for the treatment of microorganisms on or in inanimate material or
 - (e) for the preservation of a perishable product.
8. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition comprising an antimicrobial effective amount of a mixture of two, three or more straight-chain 1,2-alkanediols, the chain lengths of which (i) are different and (ii) in each case are in the range of to 10 C atoms, for the preparation of an antimicrobially active pharmaceutical agent, wherein the proportions of the said diols in the mixture are set such that their antimicrobial action is synergistically intensified.

9. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition according to Claim 1, wherein an antimicrobial active compound is used as a further constituent of the mixture in an amount at which the antimicrobial action of the alkanediol mixture is synergistically intensified, the further antimicrobial active compound not being a straight-chain 1,2-alkanediol.
10. (previously presented) An antimicrobial composition, comprising:
 - (a) as antimicrobial active compound, a mixture of two, three or more straight-chain 1,2-alkanediols, the chain lengths of which (i) are different and (ii) in each case are in the range of 5 to 10 C atoms, and
 - (b) an excipient compatible with the said mixture and optionally
 - (c) a further antimicrobial active compound that is not a straight-chain 1,2[lacuna]alkanediol.
11. (new) An antimicrobial composition, comprising
 - (a) an antimicrobial effective amount of a mixture of two, three or more straight-chain 1,2-alkanediols, the chain lengths of which (i) are different and (ii) in each case are in the range of 5 to 10 C atoms, and
 - (b) a preservative other than (a).

12. (new) An antimicrobial composition as in claim 11, wherein said preservative (b) is selected from the group consisting of benzoic acid and the esters and salts thereof, propionic acid and salts thereof, salicylic acid and salts thereof, 2,4-hexanoic acid and salts thereof, formaldehyde and paraformaldehyde, 2-hydroxybiphenyl ether and salts thereof, 2-zincsulphidopyridine-N-oxide, inorganic sulphites and bisulphites, sodium iodate, chlorobutanol, 4-ethylmercury-(II)-5-amino-1,3-bis(2-hydroxy)benzoic acid and salts and esters thereof, dehydracetic acid, formic acid, 1,6-bis(4-amidino-2-bromophenoxy)-n-hexane and salts thereof, the sodium salt of ethylmercury-(II)-thiosalicylic acid, phenylmercury and salts thereof, 10-undecylenic acid and salts thereof, 5-amino-1,3-bis(2-ethylhexyl)-5-methyl-hexahydropyrimidine, 5-bromo-5-nitro-1,3-dioxane, 2-bromo-2-nitro-1,3-propanediol, 2,4-dichlorobenzyl alcohol, N-(4-chlorophenyl)-N'-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-urea, 4-chloro-m-cresol, 2,4,4'-trichloro-2'-hydroxy-diphenyl ether, 4-chloro-3,5-dimethylphenol, 1,1'-methylene-bis(3-(1-hydroxymethyl-2,4-dioximidazolidin-5-yl)urea), poly-(hexamethylene diguanide) hydrochloride, 2-phenoxyethanol, hexamethylenetetramine, 1-(3-chloroallyl)-3,5,7-triaza-1-azonia-adamantane chloride, 1(4-chlorophenoxy)-1(1H-imidazol-1-yl)-3,3-dimethyl-2-butanone, 1,3-bis-(hydroxymethyl)-5,5-dimethyl-2,4-imidazolidinedione, benzyl alcohol, octopirox, 1,2-dibromo-2,4-dicyanobutane, 2,2'-methylene-bis(6-bromo-4-chloro-phenol), bromo-chlorophene,

mixture of 5-chloro-2-methyl-3(2H)-isothiazolinone and 2-methyl-3(2H)isothiazolinone with magnesium chloride and magnesium nitrate, 2-benzyl-4-chlorophenol, 2-chloracetamide, chlorhexidine, chlorhexidine acetate, chlorhexidine gluconate, chlorhexidine hydrochloride, 1-phenoxy-propan-2-ol, N-alkyl (C₁₂-C₂₂) trimethyl-ammonium bromide and chloride, 4,4-dimethyl-1,3-oxazolidine, N-hydroxymethyl-N-(1,3-di(hydroxymethyl)-2,5-dioxoimidazolidin-4-yl)-N'-hydroxy-methyl urea, 1,6-bis(4-amidino-phenoxy)-n-hexane and salts thereof, glutaraldehyde 5-ethyl-1-aza-3,7-dioxabicyclo(3.3.0)octane, 3-(4-chlorophenoxy)-1,2-propanediol, hyamine, alkyl-(C₈-C₁₈)-dimethyl-benzyl-ammonium chloride, alkyl-(C₈-C₁₈)-dimethyl-benzyl ammonium bromide, alkyl-(C₈-C₁₈)-dimethyl-benzylammonium saccharinate, benzylhemiformal, 3-iodo-2-propinyl-butyl carbamate, sodium hydroxymethyl-aminoacetate or sodium hydroxymethyl-aminoacetate.

13. (new) An antimicrobial composition as in claim 12, wherein said preservative (b) is 1,2-dibromo-2,4-dicyanobutane.
14. (new) An antimicrobial composition as in claim 12, wherein said preservative (b) is 2-phenoxyethanol.
15. (new) An antimicrobial composition as in claim 11, wherein said preservative (b) is 3-iodo-2-propinyl-butyl carbamate.

16. (new) An antimicrobial composition as in claim 12, wherein said mixture (a) comprises 1,2-hexanediol or 1,2-octanediol.
17. (new) An antimicrobial composition as in claim 11, wherein said mixture of straight-chain 1,2-alkanediols comprises 1,2-hexanediol and 1,2-octanediol.
18. (new) An antimicrobial composition as in claim 11, further comprising a preservative.
19. (new) An antimicrobial composition as in claim 18, wherein said preservative is 3-iodo-2-propinyl-butyl carbamate.